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WORLD-WIDE PLOT FOR OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENTS

I. W. W., Bolsheviks and
Irish Agitators Believed
United Into League.

GUNS AND MUNITIONS
ON RUSSIAN VESSEL

Officials Think Arms Found in
Cargo Were Intended for
Use in America.

QUICK ACTION IS PLANNED

If Danger Threatens Country, Agents
Are Prepared to Act Quickly
Against Enemy.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, December 25.—Evidence has been uncovered by government agents indicating that American Industrial Workers of the World, Russian Bolsheviks, Irish agitators and revolutionists in various countries at war with Germany may be seeking to lay the foundation of an elaborate world-wide plan to overthrow existing social orders.

This was admitted by officials today in connection with the news of the discovery of a quantity of rifles and revolvers in the Russian freighter Shilka, which has just arrived at a Pacific port, manned by a mutinous Bolshevik crew. Government agents suspect that the guns and munitions were intended for the Industrial Workers of the World in this country, although it was said a full report on the mysterious cargo had not yet been forwarded by officials at the port of arrival.

The Shilka incident is only one of many cases leading officials to believe the concerted efforts of these plotters in several of the allied countries may be more tangible than the indefinite link of moral sympathy. Certain Irish agitators and Industrial Workers of the World leaders recently have gone from the United States to Russia, after being in close touch with each other here, and reports have been received that Bolshevik organizers would come to America before long to spread their doctrine of direct action for communal organization.

No objection will be raised by the government to any agitation which does not interfere with the progress of the war, officials declare. Officials do not intend to use the war exigencies as an excuse for suppressing free speech, except in so far as it leads to hampering the government in the fight against the central powers. This basis of judgment, however, is recognized as broad, and will permit drastic action against foreign agents whose conduct directly or indirectly fosters Germany's war aims.

WILL TAKE SWIFT ACTION

IF DANGER THREATENS

Action will be particularly swift, officials say, when armed resistance to the law is threatened, and when other material forces are employed by the agitators. Customs inspectors will serve to prevent importation of arms and the close supervision of crews of incoming and outgoing vessels is expected to make impossible the traffic of communications on a large scale intended to foster revolutionary activity. Government agents can trace remittances of money and keep a watchful eye on suspicious expenditures. Exports of money are governed so strictly by the government that officials are certain that the chance of American financing of revolutions in other countries is slight.

Although prosecution of I. W. W. leaders has been vigorous, officials have evidence which they claim shows that the menace of this organization, believed to be supported largely by German money, remains strong. Further action against the agitators is forecast. This will be hastened if it is found that the band is working with Russian Bolshevik leaders to bring about a premature peace in Germany's interest, or to hamper America at home.

Extreme care is being taken by this government to avoid antagonizing the Bolshevik movement in Russia, despite the international irritations it has caused. American officials do not care to appear to resist the democratic ideals, even if it assumes the form of extreme and chaotic socialism, represented in Russia under the new regime. In line with this policy, it is explained, preparations for dealing with the encroachment of Bolshevikism on America is not for political reasons, but only to insure material safety and to promote moral unity of this nation in the war.

SURRENDERS GOVERNORSHIP

Thomas E. Campbell Turns Over
Governorship of Arizona Upon
Mandate of Supreme Court.

(By Associated Press.)
PHOENIX, ARIZ., December 25.—Thomas E. Campbell turned over the governorship of Arizona to Governor Hunt today in obedience to the mandate of the Supreme Court of the State, which found that Governor Hunt was the legally elected Governor by a plurality of forty-three votes.

The ceremony was without feature, Hunt's first official act was to tender Campbell a place on the State Tax Commission. Mr. Campbell declined.

Must Turn Out Lights.
WASHINGTON, December 25.—The proprietors of several hotels here have posted notices advising guests that all lights must be turned out after midnight, under penalty of having their rooms canceled.

Germany Aimed At in Secret Treaty

TOKYO, December 25.—Not the United States, but Germany, is the "third country" referred to in the secret Russo-Japanese treaty concluded in July, 1916, and made public last week by the Bolshevik government.

A statement to this effect was made by the Japanese Foreign Office today. Japan, it was explained, views with indifference the "exposure" of the treaty. Correspondents were given to understand that no reason is seen by the Foreign Office why an official explanation should be made by Japan. Nor was there any reason, officials added, for concern with regard to the friendly relations between Japan and her allies.

Doubt was expressed in official circles whether the Washington government would express any desire for an explanation on the part of Japan. The treaty, it was asserted, does not in any way interfere with American or British interests in China, nor do officials look for any protest from that country. The treaty, they added, was practically the same sort of understanding as that of the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

MEXICANS CROSS BORDER AND ENGAGE U. S. TROOPS

Cavalry and Rangers Reported
Fighting With Rear Guard of In-
vaders Last Night.

ROB AND HANG MAIL CARRIER

Bandits Hold Up Stage, Raid Texas
Town and Rob Store—Believed to
Be a Part of Chico Cano's Band
of Cattle Thieves.

(By Associated Press.)
VALIENTINE, TEX., December 25.—Men who brought the body of Mickey Welch, a United States mail carrier, who was hanged by Mexican bandits at Candelaria, Tex., early today, reported that American troops and the rear guard of the Mexican bandits were fighting to-night in the vicinity of Candelaria.

The men, who arrived in an automobile from the river front at Candelaria, also reported that two American Mexicans who were riding with Welch in the mail stage were killed. They had been reported missing all day. An American employed in the L. C. Britte store, which was looted at Candelaria by the bandits, was shot, but will recover, they said.

MAIL STAGE HELD UP

AND DRIVER IS HUNG

(By Associated Press.)
EL PASO, TEXAS, December 25.—Mickey Welch, an American, driver of a mail stage, was hanged and his throat cut early today by Mexicans who crossed the line, raided the border town of Candelaria and held up the mail stage. After killing the driver the raiders looted the mail sacks. The body of Welch was taken to Valentine, Texas, according to a telegram received here tonight. Two Mexicans, passengers in the mail stage, were reported to have been shot.

United States cavalry, Texas rangers and United States post-office inspectors are on the trail of the bandits, who were believed to have doubled back to Mexico. Cavalry detachments were dispatched from Valentine, Marfa and other outposts.

The raiders, believed to be a part of Chico Cano's band of cattle thieves, crossed the Rio Grande at sunrise near Candelaria, eighteen miles southeast of Valentine, Texas. They entered the store of L. C. Britte, a wealthy merchant and rancher in the Big Bend district, taking supplies and driving off valuable saddle stock.

The bandits, all mounted, then swept in a semi-circle northwest from Candelaria, overtaking the automobile mail stage, which was leaving Candelaria for Valentine to bring back the Christmas mail.

Welch was fired upon as he attempted to escape. He was overtaken, ordered from the stage and hanged, according to the report received here.

CARDINAL DISCUSSES PEACE

Calls Upon Central Powers for Statement
of Aims and Genuine Con-
sideration by Americans.

(By Associated Press.)
BALTIMORE, December 25.—Cardinal Gibbons, responding to an inquiry today as to what he believed the most essential thing to be done to win the war, issued a statement in which he said:

"I believe that the best way to end the war early in the coming year is for the central powers to make a definite proposition, and one that will embrace all their aims and demands."

"On the part of the United States, I believe that the best governmental action would be for the officials to put themselves in a receptive mood for the generous consideration of any peace offer that might come from the central powers."

"I think that all Americans should put themselves in a position to sympathetically receive and consider any offer embodying fundamental concessions that would commend themselves to the allies, and to ponder over these propositions in a dispassionate and broad-minded way."

Miss Vanderbilt as Santa Claus.

NEWPORT, R. I., December 25.—Elisabeth French Vanderbilt played "Santa Claus" to many poor families today, presenting groceries and coal for Christmas gifts. Children of all officers and enlisted men about Newport were entertained this afternoon at a Christmas tree festival given by enlisted men at the naval training station.

HOOVER RECITAL IS MADE PUBLIC

Statement Concerning Sugar
Shortage Issued From the
White House.

STRICT ECONOMY NECESSARY

American Gluttony Must Be
Curbed or Country's War Ef-
forts Will Suffer Harm.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, December 25.—Food Administrator Hoover's statement on the sugar situation, which he tried unsuccessfully to get before the Senate committee investigating the sugar shortage, was made public to-night at the White House. It attributes the shortage here to the heavy movement of sugar from the Western Hemisphere to Europe, and asserts that without the fixing of prices by agreement sugar would have been selling for 25 or 30 cents a pound, and more than \$200,000,000 probably would have been profiteered from the American people by this time.

The statement contains the food administrator's reply to charges made before the committee by Claus Spreckels, president of the Federal Reserve Bank, that the sugar situation was mismanaged, and sets forth in detail the administration's efforts to keep sugar prices down while supplying large quantities to the allies.

The committee, of which Senator Reed is chairman, not only had refused to make the statement a part of the Congressional Record, but has declined thus far to permit Hoover to take the stand to answer Spreckels's charges. When the hearing is resumed Friday, however, it is understood, Mr. Hoover will be permitted to tell his story.

At the outset the statement presents the world situation as it existed prior to the European war. The allies then produced much of their own supplies and purchased the remainder from Germany. Before the war they took only 200,000 tons annually from the Western Hemisphere. This year they have taken 1,400,000 tons.

"That," says the food administrator, "is the cause of the sugar shortage, and nothing else."

MAINTAINING SUGAR MORALE

The statement says the food administration has handled the situation with a view of sustaining the morale of France and England, where the sugar ration has been extremely low for months, and at the same time preventing a jump in price to 20 or 25 cents here.

Since the food administration was created, in August, the United States has exported to the allies 110,358 tons of refined sugar, and in the same period Cuba has shipped to Europe 345,133 tons of raw product. This, it is declared, is just the amount of the shortage in the United States.

Even with these shipments, it is pointed out, the supply in England and France has been inadequate. Consumption in England is twenty-four pounds a year for each person; in France fourteen, against a consumption in America of fifty-five pounds.

The shortage, the food administrator declares, will continue during next year, as it is the duty of the United States to continue to feed the allies. Next year, the statement says, American supplies will be short 250,000 to 300,000 tons unless the allies go to Java for supplies, which would require an extra amount of shipping sufficient to transport 150,000 or 200,000 American soldiers to France.

"If statements that there will be an abundance of sugar next year are believed by the American public," the statement says, "it will do this country's war efforts incalculable harm. The number of troops we can send across the ocean is limited. If we, in our greed and gluttony, force the allies either to reduce their ration or to go to remote markets after sugar, we will have done tremendous damage to our abilities to win the war."

DENIES STOCKS REMAIN

UNMOVED IN COUNTRY

Charges that the food administration has permitted sugar stocks to remain in parts of the country unmoved are denied, as are statements that sugar was left in Cuba while an effort was made to bestow Cuban prices.

As to the fixing of sugar prices the food administrator has this to say: "In order to prevent profiteering out of the situation, the food administration considered strong action was necessary, and imposed a maximum profit on refiners and wholesalers. The refiners' margin was \$1.54 per hundred the nine months before the food administration came into existence; it was reduced to \$1.20, and a saving of

(Continued on Second Page.)

FORCES IN FRANCE CABLE GREETINGS

Christmas Message Renews
Their Pledges of Devotion to
Cause of Democracy.

NATION'S HEART WITH THEM

Shadow of Great War Is Over
Yuletide Celebrations All
Over United States.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, December 25.—Renewed pledges of devotion to the cause of democracy from all ranks of the American expeditionary forces in France were given in a Christmas message from General Pershing to the chief-of-staff of the army. The cablegram, made public to-night by the War Department, said:

"Please extend to the President and the Secretary of War holiday greetings and best wishes for success of our arms during the coming year, and convey to them, from all ranks of the American expeditionary forces in France, renewed pledges of devotion to our sacred cause."

"Likewise, express our greetings to our comrades at home, coupled with full confidence in the patriotism, courage and devotion to the flag."

General Bliss, chief-of-staff, sent this message in reply. "The President and Secretary of War send to you and to the American army in France the most cordial greetings and good wishes for this Christmas season from the people of the United States. Your comrades in arms in every camp and cantonment send you greetings. From every home to-day goes a prayer for the welfare and success of our troops in France, and personally for that of every man of them. The nation reposes in you and them its full confidence that in God's good time, and with God's blessing, its troops in France, side by side with their gallant allies, will bring victory and abiding peace to all the world."

STRICTLY FAMILY

WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS

WASHINGTON, December 25.—It was a strictly family Christmas at the White House, as in every other home in the land to-day. Lowering, rainy weather kept the President and Mrs. Wilson from church in the morning, and from the golf they had planned for the afternoon. Early in the morning the family gathered around a big Christmas tree to see the two little Sayre children open their Christmas packages. In the afternoon they were joined by little Eleanor McAdoo, the President's other grandchild, and the new toys were tried out on the polished floors of the White House. To-day the children had the run of every room, and they made the most of it.

Yesterday Mrs. Wilson distributed the annual Christmas presents to the children who live along the road to the President's golf club. Seventy-five youngsters were made happy by these remembrances. Every one of the 125 attaches and employees of the White House, from Secretary Tumulty down, got a turkey as the personal gift of the President.

To-night there was a family dinner. The party included the President and Mrs. Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. McAdoo, Joseph Wilson, the President's brother, and his family, from Baltimore, and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowers Sayre, son-in-law and daughter of the President.

NEW YORK CELEBRATES

FIRST WAR CHRISTMAS

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, December 25.—New York City's first Christmas since America entered the war, while lacking none of the charitable events that heretofore have characterized the city's efforts to make the day merry for the poor, was marked by a solemnity befitting the nation's part in the world struggle. There was a noticeable absence of gaiety among the city's population, although at the behest of Judge John F. Hyland, who soon is to become Mayor, an effort was made to make the day as joyous as possible for the children.

Meals were arranged with a view to eliminating unnecessary waste, and, for the most part, the gift-giving and feasting served to emphasize the people's realization that major effort must be centered on the war.

Olive drab and blue, worn by the soldiers and sailors plentifully mingled with street throngs, gave a military aspect to the day. A drizzling rain fell during part of the forenoon, but this was soon succeeded by a raw, chill wind, but this did not keep crowds from the streets. The skies were overcast throughout the day.

Soldiers and sailors led in the festivities, approximately 15,000 of them having

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

Throat of American Soldier Cut After He Is Captured by Germans

(By Associated Press.)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, December 25.—German atrocities against American soldiers are officially reported. An American soldier has been found with his throat cut, and it is officially declared, "he must have been so killed after capture."

Information concerning German savagery has reached the troops in one of a series of bulletins read to them by the unit commanders and posted on the bulletin boards. Here is what they heard:

"After a raid by the Germans on trenches held by American troops, a lone sentry of the American infantry was found with his throat cut from ear to ear. He had been surprised by an overwhelming force of Germans and must have been killed so after capture."

"Such brutality is familiar to old soldiers who served against savages in the Philippine campaign."

Another bulletin tells the men how the Germans in occupied sections of France and Belgium are turning women and children out of their homes into the snows, the buildings being then given over to soldiers, horses and material.

RESUME INVESTIGATIONS OF WAR PROBLEMS TO-DAY

Congressional Committees to Take
Up Tasks Before Congress Recon-
venes—Much Important Work.

BEGIN FUEL SHORTAGE PROBE

Shipping Board Officials Also to Be
Investigated—Newlands's Death
Unsettles Railroad Inquiry—Con-
ferences With Wilson To-Morrow.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, December 25.—Congressional investigations of war operations and problems will resume full swing to-morrow, after a short Christmas recess, although Congress itself does not reconvene until January 3.

In the war inquiry of the Senate Military Committee, Major-General Sharpe, quartermaster-general, to-morrow will resume his testimony regarding clothing and other army supplies, health, sanitation, transportation and canteen questions. Three canteen commanders who recently returned from abroad may follow General Sharpe, whose further examination is expected to consume most of this week. Secretary Baker, who made a definite statement of military policy, is not expected to appear before the committee for some time.

Investigation of the fuel shortage will be begun to-morrow by the Senate Manufacturers Committee, postponing until Friday its further inquiry into the sugar shortage. Fuel Administrator Garfield will be the first witness to-morrow, and Food Administrator Hoover is promised an opportunity Friday to get in with his statement regarding the sugar situation, which he vainly endeavored to place before the committee last week, and which was made public to-night at the White House.

Members of the Shipping Board and officers of the Emergency Fleet Corporation will be further examined to-morrow afternoon in the shipbuilding inquiry of the Senate Commerce Committee, which hopes to complete its work before Congress reassembles. Plans for the railroad inquiry of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee are unsettled, owing to the sudden death of Chairman Newlands, and President Wilson's new conference Thursday with railroad managers and brotherhood chiefs. The committee's meeting planned for to-morrow is to be postponed, out of respect to Senator Newlands, and hearings probably will not be held until after the President delivers an address on railroad problems after the return of Congress.

OFFICERS FROM EUROPE

WILL GIVE TESTIMONY

WASHINGTON, December 25.—The side of the quartermaster's department regarding supplies sent to France has been heard in part by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. It is probable to-morrow the committee will hear the other side—the testimony of high officers just back from the European battle front. Major-General Edward St. John Greble, of Camp Bowie, Texas; Major-General William M. Wright, of Camp Doniphan, Okla., and Major-General John P. O'Ryan, of Camp Wadsworth, S. C., are expected to testify as to just what General Pershing has and just what he has not.

COMMITTEE TAKING NO

SIDES IN INQUIRY

"We will give both sides all the opportunity necessary," said Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the committee to-night. "We are not taking sides in this inquiry." The senator said that there was a possibility that Quartermaster Henry G. Sharpe would be examined further to-morrow in case the major-general was not heard.

Arrangements are being made to hear Herbert Smyth, a New York attorney, who represented Captain Hans Tauscher, formerly the American agent of

(Continued on Third Page.)

NEWLANDS'S SUCCESSOR CAUSES SPECULATION

His Death Leaves Vacancy in Chair-
manship of Interstate Com-
merce Committee.

E. D. SMITH RANKING MEMBER

South Carolinian in Touch With
Railroad Situation, but Has Not
Made It Close Study—Pomerene
May Take Charge of Work.

WASHINGTON, December 25.—The sudden death of Senator Francis G. Newlands on Monday night already has stimulated speculation as to who will be his successor as chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee. Senator E. D. Smith, of South Carolina, is the ranking Democratic member of the committee. But Senator Smith also is chairman of the important Immigration Committee, and is a most prominent member of the Agricultural Committee. He belongs to six other committees.

The South Carolinian has devoted most of his time to subjects bearing upon agriculture, and while he is entirely in touch with the railroad situation, he has not made the deep study of the problem that has Senator Alton Pomerene, of Ohio, who ranks next to Mr. Smith.

It is rumored to-night that while Senator Smith may be made the titular head of the Interstate Commerce Committee, he will agree to allow Senator Pomerene to take charge of the work. INTENSELY INTERESTED

IN RAILROAD LEGISLATION

Mr. Pomerene always has been intensely interested in railroad legislation. He is a member of the joint congressional or "Newlands" committee now investigating American railroads, and also was very prominent in the legislation enacted for the brotherhood in the historic "near strike" of August, 1916.

It is expected that the Interstate Commerce Committee will hold a meeting immediately to reorganize. This is considered necessary, because, upon motion of Senator Cummins, of Iowa, the committee already has started consideration of the recommendations made by the Interstate Commerce Commission upon unit control of the railroads. Also the committee wishes to be prepared to take up any railroad legislation to be recommended by the President after his conference here on Thursday with the railroads' executives and the brotherhoods' representatives.

Besides the question of who will conduct the destiny of the Senate committee, two other questions are immediately suggested by the death of Senator Newlands.

The first is, who will assist President Wilson with railroad legislation in place of the Nevada Senator. Up to this time Mr. Newlands, Judge W. C. Adams, chairman of the House Committee on Interstate Commerce, and Judge W. L. Chambers, of the Board of Mediation and Conciliation, have acted for the President in the way of obtaining necessary information.

JUDGE CHAMBERS ONLY

ONE OF TRIO WHO REMAINS

Now Senator Newlands is dead and Judge Adams has become collector of internal revenue at New York. Judge Chambers is the only one of the trio left, and he has no close association with Congress. It is supposed Senator Pomerene will take the place of Mr. Newlands in this semi-official capacity, although the names of Senator Robinson, of Arkansas; Saulsbury, of Delaware; Lewis, of Illinois, and Underwood, of Alabama, are also suggested.

The second question is, who will fill the Democratic vacancy upon the committee? This position will be one of great importance, now that the railroad question is looming so large in American life and law.

No arrangements have yet been made for the funeral of Senator Newlands. The details will not be arranged until to-morrow, when his daughters arrive in the city. It is probable, however, that his body will be placed in Oak Hill Cemetery and later removed to Nevada.

President Wilson, when told last night of the Senator's death, was profoundly shocked. The President will attend the funeral.

In order to make final arrangements for the funeral, the family of Senator Newlands was endeavoring to-night to find his daughter, Mrs. Edith N. Johnson, who is believed to be near Santa Barbara, Cal. It is thought now that the funeral service will be held at St. Albans Cathedral, Washington, on Thursday December 27.

The cause of Senator Newlands's death was a clot of blood at his heart, Senator Phelan, of California, who was with Senator Newlands six hours before death occurred, was much shocked when he heard the news.

ITALIANS RETAKE LOST POSITIONS IN RAGING BATTLE

Menace to Venice Believed
Removed, but Another
Thrust Is Expected.

UNUSUALLY MILD WEATHER
GREAT AID TO INVADERS

Facilitates Shifting of Troops to
Fransela Valley, Mountain-
ous Region in North.

ALLIES TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Prepare for Untoward Event, and
Airplane Bombs Seriously
Damage Mannheim.

(By Associated Press.)
In Italy the battle is still raging on the Piave front. The Italians announce that they have recaptured the positions they had lost the previous day on the Asiago plateau. Berlin reports, however, tend to minimize the setback and lay stress on the repulse of Italian counterattacks against the positions newly won by the Germans and a thrust at Monte Pertica. The Germans report the capture of 9,000 Italians in engagements around Col del Rosso.

True to their tactics, the Austro-German forces will probably direct another and greater thrust at a different point, as would appear from the shifting of large forces to the Fransela Valley and the mountainous region to the north. The menace to Venice seems, however, to have been removed for the time being.

The Associated Press correspondent at Italian headquarters in Northern Italy reports most unusual weather conditions in this war theater, with little snow and exceedingly mild temperatures—conditions which are greatly aiding the Austro-German troops in their operations, the shifting of troops and the forwarding of supplies.

The Bolshevik commander-in-chief, Ensign Krylenko, reports the transfer of large numbers of German troops to the western front and the southwestern Russian front.

CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA

SEEMS TO BE SPREADING

Civil war in Russia seems to be spreading. The negotiations between the Bolsheviks and the central powers apparently are not proceeding smoothly. The gains by the Germans in the negotiations would mean so much more time for the shifting of troops, now being carried out with the greatest speed possible.

The Germans have refused to some of their Socialist leaders permission to go to Stockholm on another inter-Allied discussion. The Bolsheviks are reported to be incensed over this decision, and in the opinion of Bolshevik leaders, the German official delegation should go to Stockholm instead.

A Bolshevik manifesto to the Russian government declares that the preparation of military equipment must be stopped, and that their energies must be devoted to the production of peace supplies.

Increased cannonading in the region of Verdun, especially around Douaumont, the Chaume wood and the Caurieres woods, which a year ago were the theaters of some of the fiercest encounters in the war, indicates apparently the intention of the Germans to keep the French forces in this sector well occupied, or might even mean a renewed effort to break through at this vital point.

The allies, however, are evidently making ready for an untoward event, and have taken the initiative in other directions. A British air squadron has successfully bombed the city of Mannheim, the great Rhine commercial center and one of the most important bases for the retooling of the Germans on the western front. Numerous fires were started in this city, a ton of bombs being dropped. The British squadron had numerous combats with German airplanes in this expedition, and one of the British machines was forced to make a landing.

ITALY GIVES "COME-BACK"

CHRISTMAS GIFT TO ALLIES

LONDON, December 25.—Italy's Christmas gift to the allied cause was a brilliant "come-back" on the western edge of the Asiago plateau. General Diaz's northern army smashed the Teutons along the whole front on which the latter had advanced perilously close to the head of the Fransela Valley, which separates them from the plain in that sector. The greater part of the positions lost two days ago are back in their possession, and their counteroffensive is still in full swing. So irresistible were their countercharges that the Teutons were forced to abandon many of the batteries and machine guns, the capture of which in the previous days' fighting the Berlin and Vienna War Offices were just recording.

It was a red Christmas Eve on the Asiago. Diaz's counteroffensive had begun just before dawn. All day long the battle raged, and the departing sun saw rivers of blood flowing down the snow-capped mountain crests. Rome's official report lays emphasis upon the stubbornness of the Austro-German defense and the terrible concentration of shell fire by both sides.

One particularly impetuous storming attack carried the Italians back to the summit of Monte Val Bella, on which the Teutons had established themselves two days ago. For some time a battle royal raged on this bitterly contested crest, the Italians finally drawing back

Looking at Private "Ginger" Through Barbed Wire on the Western War Front

This is the title of the sixth story in the series which Sergeant Arthur Guy Empey is writing for The Times-Dispatch. In it he will tell how a man came through the melting pot of the trenches. Those readers of this paper who have been following the Empey stories do not need to be told that this soldier, returned from seventeen months of active service on the battle fields of France, is bringing a message to the boys who are preparing to fight for the United States which is thrilling in every line. He knows through actual experience just what they may expect when they face the Boche. He has been through it all, and he is telling it in its every-day details in a way that no other writer has been able to do. Read his next story. It will be printed in The Times-Dispatch on Saturday, December 29.